



## The Chapels Royal of St Peter ad Vincula and St John the Evangelist HM Tower of London

Dear Friends,



As many of you will know, I was away last week in Jerusalem. I stayed at St George's Cathedral Hostel, which is just ten minutes' walk from the Damascus Gate. Whilst this wasn't a tourist trip, I did visit some of the key holy sites, for example, the Holy Sepulchre and the Mount of Olives, and I also walked the Via Dolorosa.

Most interesting to me was meeting and talking to Palestinian Christians, trying to understand why several Christian centres have been closed, and then visiting the St John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital, which is the only charitable provider of expert eye care in the West Bank, Gaza and East Jerusalem. It was also important to try and find time to savour the experience of being in one of the oldest cities in the world and a place of complex political and religious differences. It was extremely hot but I did manage to walk everywhere.

While I was in Jerusalem, I tried to remember you all in my prayers, including past and present members of the chapel community. I also prayed for those recently married, and soon to be married, as well as for those who have been baptised and those who have an association with the chapel, along with the Tower of London. In the pictures below, I have tried to capture something of my visit.

With my best wishes and prayers for you all, Roger.



above: Commonwealth War Graves, Jerusalem



above: Old and New Jerusalem, below: Roger's transport



## Sunday Service Details

26th June 2022

The Second Sunday After Trinity

0915 Holy Communion St Peter ad Vincula

1100 Holy Communion St Peter ad Vincula

Coffee after church.

### Readings

2 Kings 2: 1-2 & 6-14

Luke 14: 16-24.

### Collect for the Second Sunday After Trinity

O Lord, who never failest to help and govern them whom thou dost bring up in thy stedfast fear and love: Keep us, we beseech thee, under the protection of thy good providence, and make us to have a perpetual fear and love of thy holy Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### Poem of the week

I'm writing this newsletter on 21<sup>st</sup> June, the longest day and the day of the summer solstice. The little poem below from *The Tempest, Act V, Scene 1* needs little or no introduction. It captures the feeling of summer, and has been set to music many times. It has been pointed out that if Shakespeare is implying in the poem that bats migrate, they do not, but the Elizabethans thought they did.

**Ariel.** Where the bee sucks, there suck I:  
In a cowslip's bell I lie:  
There I couch when owls do cry:  
On the bat's back I do fly  
After summer merrily;  
Merrily, merrily shall I live now  
Under the blossom that hangs on the bough.

**William Shakespeare 1564-1616.**

### Our Congregation

On Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> June, Vera and Nathan were married in the Chapel of St Peter ad Vincula.



We were honoured and delighted to have with us at Matins on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> June some thirty delegates to the Grand Council meeting of the Order of St John and St John International.

St John is a working Order of Chivalry and a modern organisation delivering first aid, healthcare and support services around the world. St John promotes physical, mental and spiritual health and resilience in more than 35 countries, mostly in the Commonwealth. [The Order delivers its charitable activities through local St John Ambulance organisations](#) and [the St John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital in Jerusalem](#). Canon Roger Hall, who was in Jerusalem, visited the St John Eye Hospital there on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> June and was shown around by Dr Waleed Al-Khatib and his team, seeing some of the extraordinary work done there.

This Chapel Royal feels a special link with the Order of St John because their Lord Prior from 2008 to 2014 - the most senior position in the Order below royalty - was Professor Tony Mellows. Tony Mellows worshipped at the Tower for forty years. We are delighted that Elizabeth Mellows, who read our first lesson on 19<sup>th</sup> June, maintains that tradition of involvement with these Chapels – and, indeed, with the Order of St John.



## Jigsaw

The beautiful blooms in the Tower moat. <https://www.jigsawplanet.com/?rc=play&pid=363f7bb3d339>



## Tracy's Garden – Hollyhocks



### Prayers

Please continue to remember those on our sick list, some of whom are very ill, amongst whom we name: Deborah, Heather, Pat, Sue, Mark, Madeleine, Vivienne, Judy, Dan, Derek, Ann, Bridget and Peter.

Please continue to pray for Ukraine:

God of peace and justice, we pray for the people of Ukraine today.

We pray for peace and the laying down of weapons.

We pray for all those who fear for tomorrow, that your Spirit of comfort would draw near to them.

We pray for those with power over war or peace,  
for wisdom, discernment and compassion to guide their decisions.

Above all, we pray for all your precious children, at risk and in fear,  
that you would hold and protect them.

We pray in the name of Jesus, the Prince of peace. Amen

With best wishes and prayers, Roger.



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